Ontario Helping Students Learn to Code
New Supports for Coding and Computational Skills in Ontario Schools
December 5, 2016 1:00 P.M.

Ontario is celebrating Computer Science Education Week with new supports for coding and computer skills in schools across the province. Initiatives include:

- **New tech resource for teachers:** Ontario is helping elementary teachers integrate coding and computational skills into teaching, with new lesson plans that can be used in all grades and across subjects, particularly math, science and technology. Through a variety of platforms, software and app recommendations, educators can use this resource to help students to develop skills that will help them succeed today and in the future.

- **Supporting digital learning:** Ontario is supporting school boards and educators in transforming their teaching and learning practices, buying digital tools and providing new opportunities for teachers to build capacity in the areas of coding and computational thinking. With these skills, teachers can encourage their students to use technological problem-solving skills to, for example, create a toy that uses the electrical energy from a battery or solar cell to move across the floor.

- **Hands-on learning for students:** As recommended by the Highly Skilled Workforce Expert Panel, Ontario is expanding experiential learning opportunities for students, including robotics competitions, and working to increase participation in coding and computer programs for students in Grades 11 and 12. Ontario's Specialist High Skills Major enables students to build a foundation of sector-focused knowledge and skills, including coding and computer systems, before graduating.

- **Hour of Code:** Schools across Ontario will be participating in Hour of Code this week - a global movement reaching 180 countries where children and adults can participate in one-hour coding tutorials in more than 45 different languages.

Improving coding and computational skills for all students is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy, and help people in their everyday lives.

QUOTES

" By equipping students with skills like coding and other global competencies, we are preparing them to succeed now and in every stage of their lives."

- Mitzie Hunter

Minister of Education

QUICK FACTS

- Ontario has committed to investing $150 million over three years, beginning in 2014-15, through the Technology and Learning Fund to promote teaching and learning for deeper learning and global competencies.
- Ontario is continuing to provide annual funding support to FIRST Robotics Canada, which inspires elementary and secondary school students to pursue studies and careers in science, technology and engineering.
- Enrolment in Ontario's secondary computer science courses has increased by over 20 per cent over the last five years.
- TVO's TeachOntario features innovative ways for teachers to engage students in mathematics with coding and programming.
- The Ontario 2016 Budget committed to support equitable and affordable access to high-speed broadband services in Ontario's schools to better support digital learning.
- Computer Science Education week is held annually in recognition of the birthday of computing pioneer, Admiral Grace Murray Hopper, on December 9, 1906.
- A French-language resource to support integrating coding and computational thinking skills into teaching and learning is currently in development and will be available winter 2017.
- Follow the coding journey in the province of Ontario at #OntarioCodes.

LEARN MORE

- Find out how to join the movement and teach one Hour of Code
- For more ministry developed teacher resources, visit the EduGAINS website

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